



MINDFUL CIRCULATIONS

Curated by **Kerstin Winking**

2nd June 2019 – 14th July 2019



Image: Return, 2017-ongoing, Natural Indigo dye powder, seven parts, 26.1 kgs each
Installation view, 'In the Hold', HMK , Hoorn, 2018
Photo: G.J. van Rooij

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents, 'Mindful Circulations', curated by Kerstin Winking. The exhibition will be on view at the Kamalnayan Bajaj Special Exhibition Gallery, Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum from 2 June 2019 – 14 July 2019.



About the Exhibition

Participating artists: Zico Albaiquini, Naresh Kumar, Jithinlal NR, Timoteus Anggawan Kusno, Pallavi Paul, Naro Snackey, Rashmimala, Willem de Rooij, Ignasius Dicky Takndare, Lidwien van de Ven, Vincent Vulsma, and Otty Widasari.

Engaging the museum as a central site of knowledge that shapes societies, ‘Mindful Circulations’ is a curatorial experiment in conveying poetic knowledge about colonial histories through contemporary art. The theoretical approach that ‘Mindful Circulations’ takes towards knowledge is inspired by the Martinique poet and politician Aimé Césaire.

Césaire offers a way to resist Eurocentric, colonial definitions of knowledge. In the essay “Poetry and Knowledge” (1945), Césaire distinguishes between two kinds of knowledge: the poetic and the scientific. He views scientific knowledge as intent on exercising control, and as clearly linked to the colonial order of rationality. It is a cold, depersonalized, and an impoverished kind of knowledge that “enumerates, measures, classifies, and kills.” In contrast, poetic knowledge is gained during the experience of dwelling in “the forest of phenomena,” and speaks of the interrelationality of phenomena.

The exhibition includes works by artists from India, Indonesia and the Netherlands. They poetically relate phenomena from the colonial past to contemporary cultural production. While the cultural connections between India and Indonesia seem obvious in both countries’ names and because of their geographical location, the historical ties to the Netherlands become clearer only when we remember that the Dutch East India Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, or VOC) was active in India and Indonesia from the early 17th century. Over the course of time, the Dutch established a state system in the Indonesian archipelago called the Dutch East Indies. In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared the independence of the Republic of Indonesia.

‘Mindful Circulations’ triggers questions relating to hitherto hardly known histories as well as to the processes of historiography through which knowledge of the past is provided to us in the present. The artworks retain their roots in specific colonial pasts which underlie global contemporary culture and motivate their viewers to reflect on the position of art within it. In their individualistic ways, the artworks embody poetic knowledge that is based on the artists’ personal narratives and stories anchored in artistic research about the circulation of images, myths and historical data.

- Kerstin Winking

The exhibition is supported by The Mondriaan Fund, Dutch Culture, Shared Cultural Heritage, and the Krishna Reddy Foundation.



About the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum

The Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum opened to the public in 1857 and is Mumbai's oldest museum. It is the erstwhile Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay, that showcases the city's art and culture through a rare collection of fine and decorative arts that highlight early Modern Art practices as well as the craftsmanship of various communities of the Bombay Presidency.

The Museum was in a derelict condition and underwent a comprehensive five-year restoration by INTACH supported by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation. The project won UNESCO's international Award of Excellence for cultural conservation in 2005. The Museum re-opened in 2008 with an extensive exhibition programme and is committed to promoting contemporary art and culture.

The Museum hosts an extensive exhibitions programme which explores the importance of the collection and includes a strong focus on contemporary art and culture. The Museum has partnered with several international institutions to showcase artists and exhibitions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, British Library, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art in an effort to facilitate international cultural exchange.

The Museum's education and outreach programme aims to build and diversify the Museum's audiences. On offer is a rich selection of programmes including film, music and courses and lectures on history of art focused on providing stimulating, participatory experiences that respond to different age, interest and language groups, and recognize a diversity of backgrounds. These experiences are aimed at encouraging critical engagement with Mumbai's history, art and cultural developments.

For more information on Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum, please visit:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BDLMuseum

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BDLMuseum>

Website: www.bdlmuseum.org

E-mail: enquiry@bdlmuseum.org

Telephone: +91 22 23731234

For Listings

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum presents, '**Mindful Circulations**', curated by **Kerstin Winking**.

2 June 2019 – 14 July 2019.

Exhibition Venue:

The Kamalnayan Bajaj Special Exhibitions Gallery



Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum
91A Rani Baug, Veer Mata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marg,
Byculla East, Mumbai 400027

Timings:

10:00 am to 6:00 pm | last entry 5:30 pm
Closed on Wednesdays and certain public holidays

For press enquiries, please contact

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